

For Immediate Release

Indiana Department of Correction Facilities Join Together to Aid Wee One's Nursery

Indianapolis, Indiana (November 20, 2008)—With the holidays quickly approaching, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) facilities are coming together to assist the Wee One's Nursery (WON) at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) in Indianapolis.

In April 2008, the IDOC opened the nursery and allowed mothers who met certain criteria to keep their newborn baby with them in prison until they were released. To date, six women have given birth while in the nursery program and have since been released back to their communities. Currently, there are seven mothers with their infants (five girls, two boys) and three expectant mothers living in the unit, as well as four offender nannies.

The WON program runs wholly on grant money and donations. Since baby supplies are costly, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss asked other IDOC facilities if they could make any donations to the nursery in time for the holidays. The response from the facilities was overwhelmingly generous.

As of this writing, offenders from nine facilities donated \$4,700 to the WON program. Indiana State Prison offenders donated \$1,000, Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility residents donated \$700, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders donated \$500, Branchville Correctional Facility offenders donated \$500, Plainfield Correctional Facility offenders donated \$500, Miami Correctional Facility offenders donated \$500, Henryville Correctional Facility offenders donated \$500, Madison Correctional Facility offenders donated \$250, and Rockville Correctional Facility offenders donated \$250.

"The Wee One's Nursery has proved to be an innovative and encouraging program for the offender mothers and nannies involved. Not only does it keep together mothers and their infants at a crucial time, but it also teaches parenting skills that the mothers can take with them upon their release from prison. Moreover, the way in which other IDOC facilities came together and donated money for much needed supplies is truly remarkable and gratifying," said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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